## IAP15 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 0 JAN 2006

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

	of Int. Appln. No. PCT/EP2004/006702	) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"  ("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number
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Filed:	Herewith	Date of Deposit: January 10, 2006  I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.  (Typed or printed name of person mailing)  (Signature of person mailing)
Title:	SENSOR ARRANGEMENT	
Group Art Unit:	Not Yet Assigned	
Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned	
Docket No.:	87232	
Customer No.:	22242	( )

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## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified U.S. national phase application of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/006702, filed June 21, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.